

**A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING  
THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF AMBAS-  
SADOR ALBERT RAMDIN**

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 26, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin is well prepared to serve as Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States during the 35th Regular Session of the General Assembly; and

Whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin has dedicated his life to public service having displayed his vast array of talents in multiple arenas such as Senior Adviser to the Minister of Trade and Industry of Suriname, Chairman and member of several national policy development committees including the "Establishment of the Investment Fund" and "Privatization of State Enterprises" committees, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Finance of Suriname, and Suriname's non-resident Ambassador to Costa Rica, among other endeavors; and

Whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin has had an extensive history with the Organization of American States including chairing the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, and serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative; and

Whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin's distinguished involvement with the Caribbean Community has involved serving as Co-Chair of the Central America High Level Technical Committee and as Assistant Secretary-General for Foreign and Community Relations.

Therefore, I join with the family, friends, and colleagues of Ambassador Albert Ramdin to honor and congratulate him in his new position of Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

**SUPPORTING GOALS OF NATURAL  
MARINA DAY AND URGING MARI-  
NAS CONTINUE PROVIDING ENVI-  
RONMENTALLY FRIENDLY GATE-  
WAYS TO BOATING**

SPEECH OF

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 25, 2005*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 308, a bill supporting the goals of National Marina Day, and urging that marinas continue providing environmentally friendly gateways to boating.

In my district on Eastern Long Island, business associated with local marinas is important to vacationers and residents alike. The tourism and fishing industries are two of the most important contributing elements of the local economy, and marinas help these economic engines create much needed revenue throughout Brookhaven and the five East End Towns.

There are more than 12,000 marinas nationally that benefit local communities by providing safe and reliable gateways to boating. The marinas of the United States serve as stew-

ards of the environment, and they actively protect the waterways that surround them for current and future enjoyment.

The Marina Operators Association of America has designated August 13, 2005, as National Marina Day to increase awareness among citizens and elected officials about the many contributions that marinas make to communities, and it is important that Congress support this initiative.

As vacationers throughout the country flock to the coasts for well-deserved vacations, it is important that we recognize the significance of marinas. I'd therefore echo the Marina Operator's support for National Marina Day and urge my colleagues to do the same.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 26, 2005*

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 25, 2005, I was unavoidably detained on official business overseas.

I respectfully request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 417: "Yes" (On motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.J. Res. 59); Rollcall No. 418: "Yes" (On motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 181); and Rollcall No. 419: "Yes" (On motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 376).

**15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES  
ACT**

**HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 26, 2005*

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, fifteen years ago—on July 26, 1990—our great Nation made a promise to the disabled community that we have a moral obligation to keep. We said no to discrimination. We said no to sanctioned inequality. We said yes to inclusion and equality.

Today marks the 15th Anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the most sweeping civil rights legislation since the Civil Rights Act.

I am immensely proud to have been a part of reauthorization efforts of this important legislation, and I will never forget all of the advocates for the disabled at the signing ceremony on the South Lawn at the White House.

This landmark law sent an unmistakable message: It is unacceptable to discriminate against someone simply because they have a disability. Moreover, it is illegal—in employment, in transportation, in public accommodations, and in telecommunications.

The ADA recognized that the disabled belong to the American family; that a disability need not be disabling. Disabled Americans can share in all our Nation has to offer—equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

Over the last 15 years, the ADA has allowed hundreds of thousands of Americans to

join the workforce, attend school, travel, or drive a car—many for the first time in their lives. The ramps, curb cuts, Braille signs, and captioned television programs that were once novel are now ubiquitous.

However, the first 15 years of the ADA have not been without challenge. Too often, the intent of the ADA has been misconstrued by our courts, which have given it a narrow construction that its authors never intended.

To date, people with diabetes, heart conditions, cancer and mental illnesses have had their ADA claims kicked out of court because, with improvements in medication, they are considered too functional to be considered disabled.

Together, these decisions represent a dangerous chipping away at the foundation of equality which we poured 15 years ago when the ADA was enacted. And they are a reminder as we commemorate this 15th Anniversary that our work is not done.

This is clearly not what Congress intended when it passed the ADA and the first President Bush signed it into law. We intended the law to be given a broad construction, not a narrow one.

Today, let us renew our commitment to the principles and spirit of the ADA—a law that befits our great Nation, which stands for liberty and freedom. Today, let's commit to keep the promise we made when we enacted the ADA, because while its promise remains unfulfilled, it still is within reach.

Thus, I join my Congressional colleagues and demand that we commit ourselves to expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities and all Americans. Only then will we live up to the ideals of equality and opportunity.

**RECOGNITION OF PETER DERBY**

**HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 26, 2005*

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, staffers do not often receive proper recognition for the hard work they do in government for either Congress or the agencies. Many of us would like to thank one of those deserving of such recognition. That person is Peter Derby, the Managing Executive for Operations and Management at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Mr. Derby has announced that he will leave the SEC at the end of July. He will be leaving a legacy of hard work and accomplishment at that agency. Chairman William Donaldson praised Mr. Derby thusly: "Peter has played a critical role as a trusted Member of our senior management team during a critical period at the Commission. He was instrumental in increasing the operational efficiency and effectiveness at the Commission and served with distinction and integrity. Peter will leave a strong and lasting legacy at the Commission."

Prior to joining the SEC, Mr. Derby was involved in a wide array of business and public service ventures which left him well prepared to take over a position of such importance. Peter served as an elected member of the